

Introduction

The Commonwealth Regional Council, formerly the Piedmont Planning District, lies in Virginia's Piedmont physiographic province. Rolling terrain and a rural countryside are the region's dominant characteristics. It is comprised of the counties of Amelia, Buckingham, Charlotte, Cumberland, Lunenburg, Nottoway and Prince Edward, and the towns of Blackstone, Burkeville, Charlotte Court House, Crewe, Dillwyn, Drakes Branch, Farmville, Kenbridge, Victoria, Phenix and part of Pamplin.

The region experienced a 2.9 percent population growth rate between 2000 and 2005. Future growth is anticipated to be steady, with the population in the region projected to increase 15.2 percent to 111,900 in 2020 from its 2000 population level of 97,102.

The region has a large number of streams and rivers. Some of the more significant rivers include the Slate, Appomattox, Nottoway, James, Meherrin (also North, Middle and South Meherrin), Willis, Staunton and North. The James and Appomattox rivers form the northern boundary of the region, while the Staunton and Meherrin rivers form the region's southern boundary. This richness in water resources gives the region the potential for water-related recreation; however, there is a need for greater public access to this region's waters.

The region's combination of rolling terrain, numerous water bodies, rural open space, working lands and small communities creates distinctive and pleasant scenery with lasting visual impressions. Most of the region's roads are edged with fields and forestland. State forests, parks, natural areas and wildlife management areas provide a core of publicly owned open space, natural resources and recreational opportunities. Four state wildlife management areas are: Amelia, Featherfin Farm, Horsepen Lake and Briery Creek. State parks include Bear Creek Lake, James River, Twin Lakes and Holliday Lake, as well as Sailor's Creek Battlefield, Staunton River Battlefield and the newly acquired High Bridge Trail State Park. The Appomattox-Buckingham, Cumberland and Prince Edward-Gallion state forests are also located in the region.

Recommendations applicable to all regions are found in chapters III through IX. To meet needs established in the 2007 *Virginia Outdoors Plan (VOP)*, it is important to integrate these recommendations with those that follow for Region 14 into regional and local planning and development strategies.

Outdoor recreation

For a general discussion of outdoor recreation trends, issues and planning considerations in Virginia, see Chapter II: Outdoor Recreation Issues, Trends and Survey Findings, and Chapter VII: Outdoor Recreation Planning and Related Issues.

Based on input from public meetings, there is more need for transportation alternatives, specifically trails for walking, hiking and bicycling. If developed with multiple uses in mind, a comprehensive trail system could link small communities and specific destinations, thus providing exercise options and transportation alternatives. Safe cycling and walking opportunities should be provided for the entire community, but especially around Longwood University, Farmville and other towns in the region.

There is high demand for some recreational activities including walking, driving for pleasure, swimming, fishing, boating, use of playgrounds, bicycling and softball. The demand survey (see Table X-14) indicates a surplus of horseback riding trails. This surplus of riding trails attracts equestrians to this region, further justifying the need for campgrounds for horse enthusiasts.

According to the Commonwealth of Virginia Auditor of Public Accounts, *Comparative Report on Local Government Revenues and Expenditures* (year ended June 30, 2005), per capita spending on parks and recreation for each locality in this region was: Amelia County, \$13.00; Buckingham County, \$5.50; Charlotte County, \$0.93; Cumberland County, \$2.95; Lunenburg County, \$0.00; Nottoway County, \$2.03; Prince Edward County, \$3.90; Town of Blackstone, \$61.50; and the Town of Farmville, \$1.32. The towns of Dillwyn, Phenix, Drakes Branch, Keysville, Charlotte Court House, Kenbridge, Victoria, Crewe, Burkeville and Pamplin were not listed in the report. This compares to a statewide per capita spending on parks and recreation of \$55.31, including \$85.51 from towns, \$43.75 from counties, and \$76.45 from cities.

The following counties in Region 14 do not have a full-time parks and recreation department to provide related facilities and programs to their community: Charlotte County, Cumberland County, Lunenburg County, Nottoway County and Prince Edward County.

Land conservation

A detailed discussion on statewide awareness of the need for conservation of farmland, parks, natural areas, and historical and cultural resources is found in Chapter III: Land Conservation. Conservation lands in the region are shown on Map X-28.

Land Trusts and Conservation Programs Operating in Region 14

- APVA Preservation Virginia
- The Chesapeake Bay Foundation
- Civil War Preservation Trust
- The Conservation Fund
- The 500-Year Forest Foundation
- Friends of the Appomattox River
- James River Association
- The Nature Conservancy
- Roanoke River Rails to Trails, Inc.
- Virginia Department of Historic Resources
- Virginia Outdoors Foundation

Land conservation recommendations include:

- Local and regional agencies and organizations should protect water quality and health of riparian lands adjacent to the James River.
- To reduce the amount of development sprawl in Region 14, local and regional agencies should implement conservation and land planning measures.

Green infrastructure

Information about green infrastructure is found in Chapter IV: Green Infrastructure. Regional recommendations for green infrastructure include:

- Local and regional agencies should become informed and educate constituents about green infrastructure planning, including guidance on local zoning initiatives for changing community design and transportation systems.
- Regional and local agencies should develop a regional green infrastructure plan and promote the value of the planning model.

Programs

The following recommendations integrate statewide program initiatives into responsive regional strategies for outdoor recreation and conservation. The statewide program areas addressed in this section include: trails and greenways, blueways and water access, historic and landscape resources, scenic resources, scenic highways and Virginia byways, scenic rivers, watersheds, environmental and land stewardship education, and the private sector. Recommendations are bulleted or numbered and are not sequenced by state or local priorities. Numbered recommendations are site specific to the regional map at the end of this section (see Map X-29).

Trails and greenways

For more detailed information, see Chapter VII: Outdoor Recreation Programs and Initiatives, Greenways and Trails.

- Regional and local organizations and agencies should support efforts of the Farmville Greenways Alliance and other trail groups and expand these initiatives throughout the region.

Statewide trunkline trails

- State, regional and local agencies and organizations should support implementation of the James River Heritage Trail, which is proposed to follow America's Founding River from the Chesapeake Bay to the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. The trail follows the old Kanawha Canal towpath, park trails, scenic riverside roadways and urban riverfront trails deep into the heart of Virginia.
- State, regional and local agencies and organizations should support implementation of the Trans-Virginia Southern Trail, which will stretch from the Cumberland Gap to the Chesapeake Bay. This trail network will connect the mountains to the sea and stimulate ecotourism across Southern Virginia. A major segment of this trail includes the Tobacco Heritage Trail.

Regional Trails

- The Commonwealth Region Council has developed the Piedmont Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, which should guide efforts to improve bike and pedestrian facilities in Region 14.

1 The **Dogwood Trail** in Farmville should be connected to the proposed Wilkes Lake Park Trail and the High Bridge Trail State Park along Buffalo Creek.

- 2 State, regional and local agencies and organizations should support implementation of the **James River Heritage Trail**.
- 3 The **Cumberland-Appomattox Trail** in Cumberland and Buckingham counties would cross this region south of the James River.
- 4 State, regional and local agencies and organizations should support implementation of the **Trans-Virginia Southern Trail**.
- 5 **U.S. Bicycle Route 1** should be enhanced and properly identified. State, regional and local agencies and organizations should determine the best route and develop plans for signage and mapping.
- 6 The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) should propose **Twin Lakes State Park** as part of the African-American Trail.
- 7 **High Bridge Trail State Park** is planned as a 33.8-mile stretch of a former Norfolk Southern rail corridor from near Burkeville to near Pamplin City. This trail will eventually connect with Appomattox Courthouse National Historic Park, Holliday Lake State Park, Featherfin Wildlife Management Area, Sailor's Creek Battlefield State Park, Twin Lakes State Park and the Tobacco Heritage Trail near Meherrin. The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) should pursue funding and implementation of plans for this state park.
- 8 The **Tobacco Heritage Trail** should continue to be developed by converting abandoned railroads into trails. Components in the region include portions of the former Virginian Railroad corridor.

Water Access

A discussion of the water access in the Commonwealth can be found in Chapter VII: Outdoor Programs and Initiatives, Water Access and Blueways. Blueways and water access are critical in a water rich state such as Virginia. Water access should be a high priority for public acquisition. Water access recommendations include:

- The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and local government should expand public access to water by developing parking and launch facilities at bridge crossings.
- Regional and local organizations should encourage conservation easements that allow public access.

- Regional and local agencies should establish cooperative agreements among localities, other agencies and private landowners to meet the increasing need for public access to recreational waters.
- Regional and local agencies should identify strategies to make additional waterfront resources available for public use.
- Regional and local agencies should provide adequate support facilities and services, such as restrooms, concessions, parking and maintenance for existing and proposed public water and beach access areas.
- Regional and local agencies should acquire or maintain access to existing public beaches and water access sites that may be jeopardized by changes in land use or development activities.
- 9 Regional and local agencies and organizations should develop the **Appomattox River Blueway**.
- 10 State, regional and local agencies should provide additional public access on the **James, Appomattox, Staunton** and **Slate rivers**, as well as all canoeable streams in the region.
- 11 The **Amelia Wildlife Management Area** has the potential to accommodate primitive camping and picnicking for non-motorized boats as a part of the Appomattox River Blueway.

Historic and landscape resources

Consideration should be given to evaluating potential historic and landscape recommendations in this region. For more detailed information, see Chapter VII: Outdoor Programs and Initiatives, Historic and Landscape Resources. Local and regional recommendations include:

- Regional and local agencies should identify historic and archaeological resources that can be used for tourism, recreation and education. These resources should be included in local land use planning and decision-making processes to promote preservation and protection.
- Regional and local agencies should partner with local historic attractions, historical societies, museums and other tourism organizations in the region to include the Virginia Association of Museums, Virginia Civil War Trails, APVA Preservation Virginia, the Virginia Main Street Program and others to enhance local heritage tourism, educational and recreational offerings.

- Regional and local agencies should encourage local governments and private organizations that own historic properties in the region to manage properties effectively for long-term protection and to maximize public benefit consistent with the nature of the historic property.
- Regional and local agencies should recognize the multiple historic and cultural resources within the rural landscape through rural historic districts.
- Regional and local agencies should support the creation of other heritage area programs to promote tourism and preservation in distinctive regions.
- Regional and local agencies should support Civil War battlefield protection efforts.
- Regional and local agencies should protect Civil Rights in Education sites.
- Local government and local and regional organizations should work with the state to meet the critical need for county-wide surveys of historic and architectural resources in Amelia, Buckingham and Prince Edward counties.
- Local government and local and regional organizations should work with the state to meet the critical need for archaeological surveys in Amelia, Charlotte, Lunenburg, Nottoway and Prince Edwards counties, as well as for archaeological assessments of the archaeological resources in these five counties.

Scenic resources

Consideration should be given to potential scenic recommendations in this region. For more detailed information, see Chapter VII: Outdoor Programs and Initiatives, Scenic Resources. Local and regional recommendations include:

- Regional and local agencies should develop corridor management plans for scenic byways, blueways, greenways and scenic rivers to assure preservation of the scenic quality of the corridor.
- Regional and local agencies should protect the scenic value of lands adjacent to publicly owned properties, as well as the scenic value of working agricultural and forestal areas key to maintaining a sense of place and economic vitality of the region. Scenic attributes to be considered include:
- Encourage development away from mountaintops to protect significant vistas.
- Consider timber harvesting impacts on key viewsheds.

- Protect viewsheds along river corridors and scenic byways.
- Create scenic overlooks and vista cuts along Virginia byways and scenic highways to enhance the visual experience of traveling.
- Regional and local agencies and organizations should assess scenic assets for this region to determine appropriate protection strategies.

Scenic highways and Virginia byways

Opportunities to traverse Virginia's scenic and cultural landscapes are enhanced through nationally recognized designation. There has been a tremendous interest in thematic trails including Civil War trails, the Wilderness Road Trail, the Birding and Wildlife trails, the Revolutionary War trails, the African-American Heritage Trail system, and other driving tour routes. The next logical step after the *Scenic Roads in Virginia* map would be to develop a series of regional maps or booklets that describe and help locate the resources and services found in all sections of the state. In Region 14, the Civil Rights in Education Heritage Trail, Lee's Retreat and the Wilson-Kautz Raid Trail should be supported and promoted for their historical and educational value and as a tourism driver. For more detailed information, see Chapter VII: Outdoor Programs and Initiatives, Scenic Highways and Virginia Byways.

Scenic roads recommendations for the region include:

- Regional and local agencies should recognize and nominate scenic roads for designation as Virginia byways.
- Regional and local agencies should partner with other state, local and professional organizations to develop corridor management plans to protect the scenic assets of byway corridors.
- Regional and local agencies should incorporate Virginia byways and scenic highways into local comprehensive plans and zoning ordinances to ensure viewsheds are conserved and the sense of place retained along these corridors.
- Regional and local agencies should support designation of nationally qualified historic corridors to increase civic engagement and foster heritage tourism.

The following road segments are potential Virginia byways and should be evaluated to determine if they qualify for designation:

- 12 **Route 15** south of Farmville in Prince Edward County.

13 A portion of **Route 460** in northern Prince Edward County.

14 **Route 626** in Appomattox and Buckingham counties.

Scenic rivers

For detailed information about the Virginia's Scenic Rivers Program and its purpose, benefits and designation process, see Chapter VII: Outdoor Recreation Programs and Initiative, Scenic Rivers. Regional and local recommendations include:

- Localities should adopt planning tools, e.g., land use overlays, corridor management plans, that will afford special recognition and protection to Virginia's scenic rivers.

In order to more successfully protect river resources, the following recommendations are given:

15 The **Staunton River** from Route 761 (Long Island) to Route 360 is designated a state scenic river. Impacts to the Staunton River from proposed commercial development along the riverbanks should be carefully evaluated. The Staunton River should be protected as a unique regional resource. Inappropriate development that compromises the scenic qualities of the river and the enjoyment of its natural beauty should be discouraged. Appropriate setbacks and buffers should be incorporated into plans to assure preservation of the river corridor and protect water quality.

16 The **North Meherrin River** from the Route 712 Bridge to the junction of the South Meherrin River is designated a state scenic river. Impacts to the North Meherrin River from proposed commercial development along the riverbanks should be carefully evaluated. The North Meherrin River should be protected as a unique regional resource. Inappropriate development that compromises the scenic qualities of the river and the enjoyment of its natural beauty should be discouraged. Appropriate setbacks and buffers should be incorporated into plans to assure the preservation of the river corridor and protect water quality.

The following river segments qualify for designation as Virginia Scenic Rivers:

17 The **James River** from Wingina to Maidens.

18 The **Staunton River** from Route 360 to Staunton River State Park.

19 The **Meherrin River** from the North Meherrin confluence to the Brunswick County line.

20 The **Appomattox River** from Route 612 to Route 608 in Prince Edward and Buckingham counties.

21 The **Slate River** from Route 20 to the James River in Buckingham County.

The following river segments are potential Virginia Scenic Rivers and should be evaluated to determine suitability for designation:

22 The **Appomattox River** from Route 608 to the Powhatan County line.

23 The **James River** from Bent Creek to Wingina in Buckingham County.

Watershed resources

For information about Virginia's watershed programs, see Chapter VII: Outdoor Programs and Initiatives, Virginia's Watershed Programs.

Watershed groups in Region 14

- Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
- Chesapeake Bay Foundation
- Clean Virginia Waterways
- Friends of the Rivers of Virginia
- James River Association
- Middle James Roundtable
- Roanoke River Basin Association
- Virginia Conservation Network

Watershed recommendations for this region include:

- Regional and local organizations and agencies should conserve areas around Roanoke Creek.

Environmental and land stewardship education

For detailed information on Environmental and Land Stewardship education, see Chapter VII: Outdoor Programs and Initiatives, Environmental and Land Stewardship Education. Environmental and land stewardship recommendations for this region include:

- Local and regional environmental education organizations should assess the outdoor environmental education facilities existing in this region. Environmental education should be expanded in the region by providing more opportunities at the region's vast public natural areas and parks, including the state parks, state forests and wildlife management areas.

Federal programs

For information on federal programs affecting Virginia's outdoor recreation and conservation opportunities, see Chapter IX-A: Resource Agencies. Local and regional recommendations are listed by agency.

National parks

- Local and regional government, user groups and nonprofits should work with the National Park Service (NPS) to revise policy in order to allow mountain bikes to use appropriate national park trails.
- NPS, with state, regional and local partners, should continue to develop multi-modal connections to NPS sites as a component of an interconnected, statewide system of trails and greenways. Efforts underway should be supported at parks such as Petersburg National Battlefield, Appomattox Court House National Historical Park and Richmond National Battlefield, which are currently engaged in efforts to link battlefields, historic sites, parks and communities.
- NPS should continue to work with state agencies to elevate battlefield protection in various land conservation, scenic viewsheds and heritage preservation initiatives.
- NPS should rely on partnerships to identify, prioritize and develop strategies to protect critical resources.

Other federal facilities (military)

24 Fort Pickett in Nottoway, Dinwiddie and Brunswick counties should be evaluated for opportunities to increase public recreational use within the base mission.

State facilities and programs

For a discussion of state facilities and programs throughout the entire Commonwealth, see Chapter IX-B: Resource Agencies. Local and regional recommendations are listed by agency or program.

State Parks

25 Bear Creek Lake State Park (326 acres) is in Cumberland County and is surrounded by the Cumberland State Forest. The park has a 40-acre lake available for swimming, fishing and boating. The 2002 General Obligation Bond (GOB) provided funds to construct one six-bedroom lodge, 10 two-bedroom cabins, two three-bedroom cabins and a meeting

facility with a kitchen. The park has traditionally offered 53 campsites with a mix of full service hook-ups and tent sites, picnicking, swim beach and concession, and boat rentals. The park has more than six miles of hiking trails and also provides links to the Willis River Trail and Cumberland multi-use trail located in the state forest. Also through the 2002 General Obligation Bond (GOB), the park received funds to construct new trails and renovate existing trails.

26 Holliday Lake State Park (255 acres) is in Appomattox County and is surrounded by the Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest. The park has a 150-acre lake which is available for swimming, boating and fishing. Existing park facilities include a 30-site campground, a large shaded picnic area, two picnic shelters, two playgrounds, a boat ramp, a seasonal full-service concession stand and camp store, and boat rentals. Through the 2002 GOB, the park will be getting a campground expansion and funds to enhance the trail system. The park has five hiking trails and one aquatic trail. Lakeshore Trail is a 6.3-mile hiking trail that loops around the lake and the Holliday Lake 4-H Educational Center. A trailhead for the Carter Taylor Multi-Use Trail can also be found in the park. This trail is a 12-mile loop in the Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest for hikers, bicycle riders and horseback riders.

27 James River State Park (1,525 acres) is in Buckingham County. The park was acquired with funds from the 1992 General Obligation Bond. Water access and water views are a primary focus of the park offerings. The park has three fishing ponds, three miles of riverfront, two primitive campgrounds and two boat launches. In addition, the park offers two picnic areas, six shelters, and 20 miles of trails for hiking, biking and equestrian use. The 2002 GOB has provided funds for several new park facilities, which include 16 cabins and two six-bedroom lodges, a third campground with full-service hook-ups, an equestrian campground and an office-visitor center complex as well as trail improvements.

28 Sailor's Creek Battlefield State Park (321 acres) is in Amelia, Nottoway and Prince Edward counties. Placed on the National Register of Historic Landmarks in 1985, the park was the scene of the last major battle of the Civil War. On April 6, 1865, also referred to as the Black Thursday of the Confederacy, General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia lost 7,700 men, including eight generals. This defeat was key to Lee's decision to surrender at Appomattox Courthouse 72 hours later, ending the war in Virginia. Period costumed interpreters commemorate the event and con-

duct other living history events throughout the year. The Hillsman House, used as a field hospital during the battle, is open to visitors. The park is also a stop on the Lee's Retreat Driving Tour. Through the 2002 GOB, funding was provided to build a visitor center and support facility, renovate the Hillsman House and enhance the trails within the park.

29 Staunton River Battlefield State Park (300 acres) is in Charlotte and Halifax counties. The park is split by the Staunton River, and includes a .8-mile segment of abandoned rail corridor that crosses the Staunton River Bridge and travels past the Randolph Depot. The visitor center was opened in 1995 as a result of a unique partnership between Virginia State Parks, Virginia Power, Old Dominion Electric Cooperative and the Historic Staunton River Foundation. The park also includes Mulberry Hill, which was nominated to the National Register of Historic Places in 1972 for its significance as the home of Judge Paul Carrington, who was a distinguished jurist and leader of the independence movement in Virginia in the late 1700s. Mulberry Hill also played a prominent role in the Battle of Staunton River Bridge during the Civil War in 1864. The park offers hiking, bicycle, and self-guided historical and nature trails. A picnic area and shelter are also available. Through the 2002 GOB, funding was available to renovate Mulberry Hill and to construct an equestrian facility.

30 High Bridge Trail State Park (approximately 600 acres) is an abandoned railroad right-of-way that was donated by Norfolk and Southern Railway Company (NSR) to DCR for development as a state park. The trail is 33.8 miles long, and it starts near Burkesville in Nottoway County, extends northwest into Cumberland and Prince Edward counties, bisects the Town of Farmville, and ends near Pamplin City. Originally, the rail line was a portion of the Petersburg to Lynchburg rail line constructed by Southside Railroad Company from 1849 to 1854. The railroad right-of-way has a typical width of approximately 80 feet and is wider in areas that were necessary for construction of the railway. A park master plan has been developed, which describes proposed future development for the site. Initial funding for development of the park would be through grants and a special appropriation by the 2007 General Assembly.

31 Twin Lakes State Park (495 acres) is centrally located in Prince Edward County and was originally acquired in 1939 from local farmers. During the time of segregation in the south (1950), the property was split into two parks, Prince Edward State Park for Negroes and Goodwin Lake State Recreational Area,

which served whites. Each park consisted of a lake for swimming and fishing, a camping area and a picnic area. In 1964, the two were merged back into one park, and in 1986, it was given the current name. The park offerings today still include swimming, fishing, and camping, as well as cabins, trails, two boat launches, and a conference center, which has three meeting rooms, a full service kitchen, and a dining area. Through the 2002 GOB, funding has been allocated for a maintenance area and residence. Because of its unique history, efforts should be made to include the park as a stop on the African American Trail.

State natural area preserves

There are currently no dedicated natural area preserves within Region 14. DCR has, as of November 2006, documented 142 occurrences of 81 rare species and natural communities in this region. Twenty-five species are globally rare and five are federally threatened or endangered. Forty-seven conservation sites have been identified in the district. Twenty-five sites (53 percent) have received some level of protection through ownership or management by state, federal and non-government organizations. However, no sites are protected well enough to ensure the long-term viability of the rare species and natural communities they support.

DCR recommends that all unprotected conservation sites, and all unprotected portions of partially protected sites, be targeted for future land conservation efforts. The appropriate method of protection will vary with each site but may include placing the site on Virginia's Registry of Natural Areas, developing a voluntary management agreement with the landowner, securing a conservation easement through a local land trust, acquiring the site through a locality or local land trust, dedicating the site as a natural area preserve with the current owner, or acquiring the site as a state-owned natural area preserve.

Within Region 14, DCR is particularly interested in protecting:

- Significant communities and rare species habitats along the Nottoway River in Lunenburg and Nottoway counties.
- Piedmont hardpan forest and Piedmont savannah communities.
- Granite flatrock communities.

State forests

- Local and regional agencies should encourage the use of Department of Forestry (DOF) Best

Management Practices in floodplain forest areas, particularly those adjacent to state-designated scenic waterways.

- Local and regional agencies should use DOF properties as field classrooms to help with educational programs.
- Local and regional agencies should coordinate with DOF and seek the assistance of local trail and river user organizations to develop forest trails and publish maps for each state forest, as well as establish greenways and blueways for public use.
- Local and regional agencies should investigate opportunities to acquire fee simple ownership or easements to conserve working farms and forests in the region.
- Local and regional agencies should work with DOF to create defensible space around buildings to reduce the risk of wild fires through the DOF Fire Wise Program.
- Localities should work with DOF on education and monitoring of tree diseases and other pests that could weaken forested environments.
- Agricultural lands should be targeted for reforestation to protect the water quality of the area and limit the effects of erosion.

32 The DOF should continue development of the Appomattox to Cumberland hiking trail in the **Appomattox-Buckingham State Forest**.

33 The DOF should expand bicycling and hiking opportunities in **Prince Edward-Gallion State Forest**.

34 A comprehensive program should be established between DOF and DCR to preserve, develop and interpret the **Camp Gallion Civilian Conservation Corps** site in Gallion State Forest.

State fish and wildlife management areas (WMA)

- The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF) should continue to work with local and regional governments to support the Birding and Wildlife trail program.
- DGIF should continue to develop trail systems within wildlife management areas to facilitate access for activities other than hunting and fishing.
- 35** DGIF should evaluate the **Amelia WMA** in Amelia County for its potential to accommodate additional recreational development, such as trails and river

access opportunities, which would be beneficial in meeting some of the region's recreational needs.

36 The **Featherfin Farm WMA** was acquired by the DGIF in 2005. The parcel, located about 10 miles west of Farmville, consists of approximately 2,800 acres and borders more than 10 miles of the Appomattox River in Prince Edward, Appomattox and Buckingham counties. The property has a long-established hunting heritage and will be included in DGIF's Quota Hunting system, which requires hunters to apply pre-season and be selected for hunting privileges by random drawing. This largely wooded tract provides a diversity of rolling piedmont habitats that support upland species such as deer, turkeys, squirrels and an occasional bear, and it includes approximately 300 acres of fields and woodland edges that provide habitat for rabbits, quail and other small game. A variety of other wildlife also occurs on the property, which promises to provide good wildlife viewing opportunities. DGIF should evaluate the **Featherfin Farm WMA** for its potential to accommodate additional recreational development during non-hunting seasons.

Transportation programs

- Local and regional agencies should develop alternatives to the use of private automobiles for daily activities. Transit systems, bicycle and pedestrian accommodations, improved community design, as well as a change in people's attitudes toward transportation alternatives will be needed for the transportation system of the future to meet capacity needs and energy constraints.
- Local and regional agencies should work with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to implement Context Sensitive Solutions that accommodate multiple transportation modes.
- Local and regional agencies should recognize the need for a network of low-speed, low-volume roadways used by equestrians, pedestrians and cyclists, and they should include protections for this network in their comprehensive plan.
- Local and regional agencies should encourage the development of a permanent process for integrating the recommendations of local public health agencies, and they should include "active living" opportunities into all phases of transportation planning, land use planning and project design.

Local and regional parks and recreation departments

For a discussion of local and regional parks and recreation departments, see Chapter IX-D: Resource Agencies. Local and regional recommendations include:

- Explore reclamation of abandoned landfills into new and needed parks.
- Consider cooperative management for the recreational use of private, corporate and state or federally owned lands in order to increase local access and meet outdoor recreation needs.
- The counties of Charlotte, Cumberland, Lunenburg, Nottoway, and Prince Edward do not have a fulltime parks and recreation department to provide related facilities and programs to their communities. These localities should consider committing resources for the development of parks and recreation departments.

37 Localities should consider transforming old school sites and other abandoned public sites for public parks and recreational use. One such project is located on 9.25 acres in Dillwyn and is known as the **Buckingham Training School**. This adaptive reuse project serves as a community park. As planned by Buckingham County, the buildings on this site, the first African-American High School in Buckingham County (1923), should be restored and adapted to meet other public beneficial uses.

Private sector

This region is a major destination area for vacationers. Much of the demand for outdoor recreation is met by the private sector. For a discussion of the private sector, see Chapter IX-C: Resource Agencies.

The following recommendations pertain to this region:

- Regional and local organizations should continue to support campgrounds, resident summer camps for children, golf courses, tennis courts, swimming pools, marinas and indoor recreational facilities.
- Regional and local organizations and businesses should assess entrepreneurial opportunities that may exist for outfitter services to provide canoeing, kayaking, boat launches, canoe-in campgrounds, multi-field sports complexes and swimming pools.
- Private sector should evaluate fee-based hunting, fishing, camping and boating access opportunities.
- There is a need to provide areas for the use of all-terrain vehicles. The private sector should evaluate the potential to offer these opportunities.
- Regional and local organizations and businesses should assess entrepreneurial opportunities that may exist as a result of the new High Bridge Trail State Park. Activities that will support the park include campgrounds and cabins for hikers, bicycle rentals, horse livery and bed and breakfast establishments.



Sailors Creek State Park. Photo by DCR.

Table X-14. Region 14 (Commonwealth Regional Council) Existing and Projected Outdoor Recreation Needs

Activity	Activity Days	Demand	Units	Supply	2010 Needs	2020 Needs
Baseball	236,338	47	fields	28	19	25
Basketball	210,734	50	goals	8	42	49
Bicycling	164,452	12	miles	NI		
Mountain	23,634	2	miles	NI		
Other	140,818	10	miles	NI		
Lake, river and bay use (combined)	312,753	5,995	water acres	2,533	3,462	4,280
Power boating	155,786	3,755	water acres	S		
Sailing	22,058	191	water acres	S		
Saltwater fishing	70,901	399	water acres	S		
Jet ski, personal watercraft	22,649	355	water acres	S		
Water skiing, towed on water	41,359	1,296	water acres	S		
Camping	108,124	638	sites	240	398	485
Tent camping	46,086	272	sites	28	244	281
Developed camping	62,039	366	sites	212	154	204
Fitness trail use	48,942	4	mile trails	-	4	4
Fields (combined)	234,270	49	fields	9	40	47
Football	132,940	28	fields	9	19	23
Soccer	101,330	21	fields	-	21	24
Stream use (combined)	376,072	240	stream miles	144	96	129
Freshwater fishing	326,934	230	stream miles	S		
Human-powered boating	27,474	7	stream miles	S		
Rafting	3,939	1	stream miles	S		
Tubing	17,725	2	stream miles	S		
Golfing	103,201	3	courses	90	-2	-1
Hiking, backpacking	164,452	84	trail miles	156	-72	-60
Horseback riding	27,573	12	miles	128	-116	-114
In-line skating	22,649	2	miles	NI		
Jogging, running	1,320,536	106	mile trails	NI		
Nature study, programs	31,512	4	sites	-	4	5

Note: Demand multipliers used to create this chart are based on the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's 2006 *Virginia Outdoors Survey* as measured at the regional level. Additional analysis is required to adjust these results for local conditions.

NA: not applicable, no standard needed

S: same as combined

NS: not inventoried separately

NI: not inventoried

(-) indicates surplus

Table X-14. Region 14 (Commonwealth Regional Council) Existing and Projected Outdoor Recreation Needs – continued

Activity	Activity Days	Demand	Units	Supply	2010 Needs	2020 Needs
Picnicking away from home	109,503	284	tables	388	-104	-65
Skateboarding	38,405	12	sites	NI		
Snow skiing or snowboarding	20,680	1	ski lifts	-	1	1
Softball	155,589	28	fields	18	10	13
Sunbathing, relaxing on beach	233,679	17	beach acres	5	12	14
Swimming	984,740	69		NI		
Outdoor area	529,790	54	beach acres	5	49	57
Outdoor pools	293,453	12	pools	9	3	5
Indoor pools	161,497	2	pools	-	2	2
Tennis	61,940	39	courts	33	6	11
Used a playground	249,336	35	sites	9	26	31
Visiting gardens	48,745	5	sites	NI		
Visiting historic sites	153,324	13	sites	NI		
Visiting natural areas	174,496	30	sites	NI		
Volleyball	10,931	3	courts	1	2	3
Hunting	226,096	37,077	acres	70,752	-33,675	-28,619
Drive for pleasure	601,676	NA	NA	NI		
Driving motorcycle off road	37,420	17	miles	-	17	19
Driving 4-wheel-drive off road	54,358	NA	NA	NS		
Walking for pleasure	3,136,397	NA	NA	NI		
Bird watching	24,815	NA		NI		
Other	4,333	NA	NA	NI		

Note: Demand multipliers used to create this chart are based on the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's 2006 *Virginia Outdoors Survey* as measured at the regional level. Additional analysis is required to adjust these results for local conditions.

NA: not applicable, no standard needed

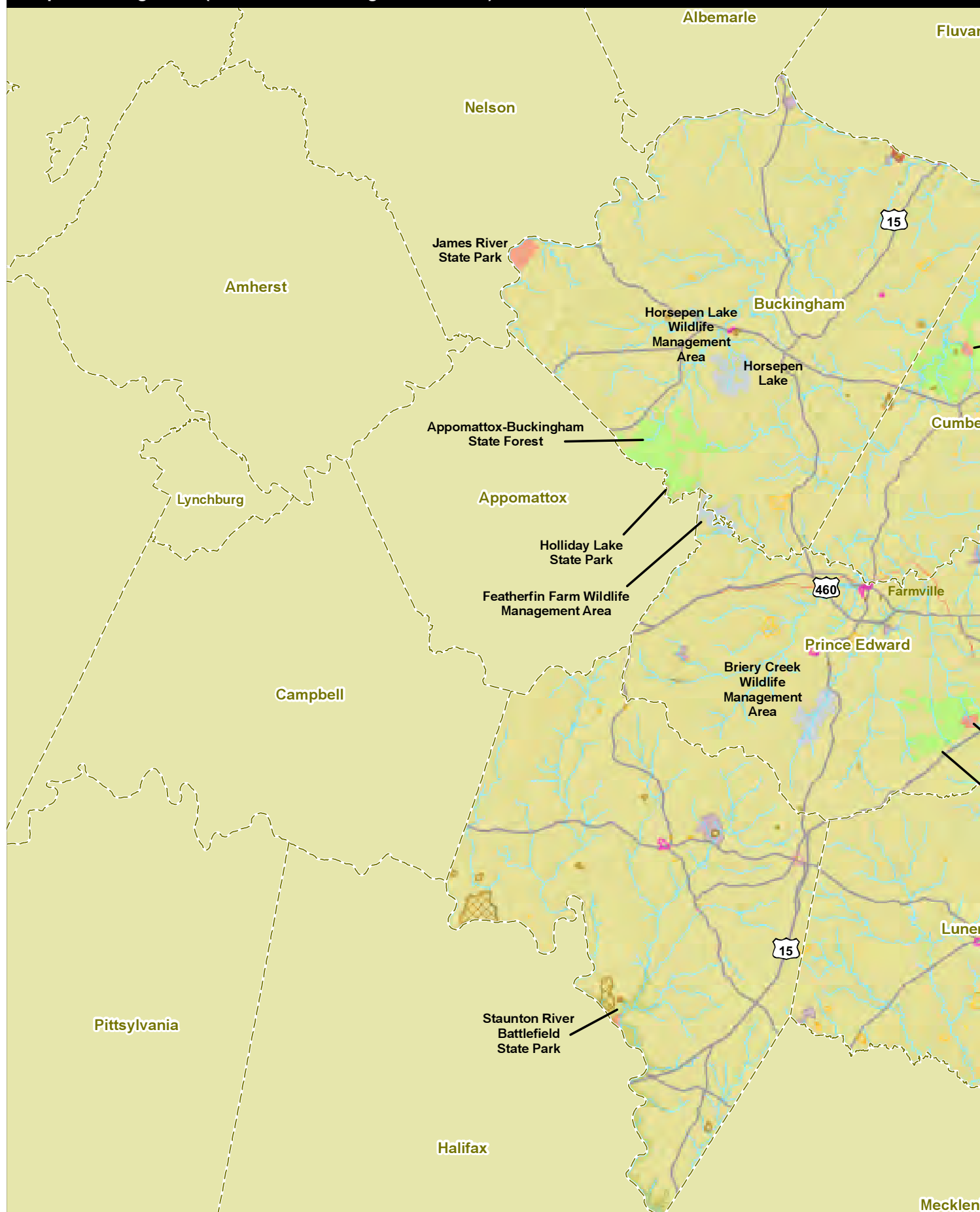
S: same as combined

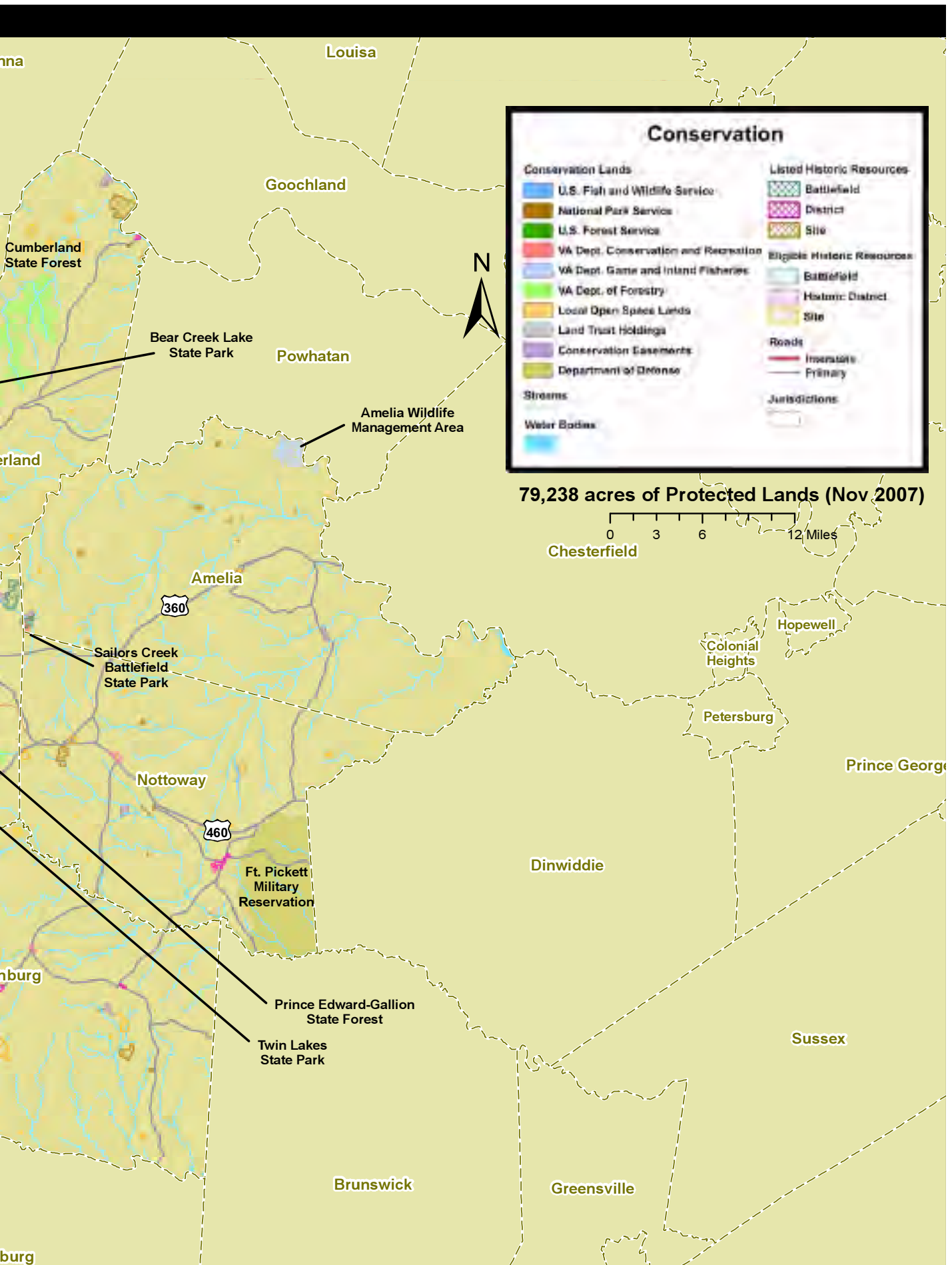
NS: not inventoried separately

NI: not inventoried

(-) indicates surplus

Map X-28. Region 14 (Commonwealth Regional Council) Conservation Lands





Map X-29. Region 14 (Commonwealth Regional Council) Outdoor Recreation

